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THE TOWN THAT GIVES.

"Columbia is a town that cracks down," a Fulton man once said, meaning that she meets all her problems fairly and squarely and accomplishes things. This has been proved in a striking manner by this winter's problem—poverty and want. Columbia has met it in a way to earn for herself the title, "The Town That Gives."

Beginning last fall with the different contributions to funds for the war sufferers, the Christmas Ship, the Bulgarian Fund, a shipment of flour, and continuing the Red Cross subscriptions, the tuberculosis campaign and local charity,—in all of these money has been freely given. Within the last week another call for aid has come from the Charity Organization Society and more than \$300 have been subscribed. Although this is not enough to meet the demands, yet it is a great deal for a city of this size. Columbia gives as much probably as any other city in the state in comparison to her size and the needs to be met.

And is it necessary to say that in each of these campaigns for raising money it is the same persons in almost all instances who give and give for themselves and the others who are content to let them give?

LEGISLATION FOR WOMEN.

A bill has been introduced in the Legislature which should receive more attention from the women of Missouri than even the question of equal suffrage. It concerns, not merely a political privilege or right, but, a living wage for those who work. It is the recommendation of the commission which investigated conditions in the state and found that as a rule the wages of women and children are not living wages.

The bill provides for a commission of three members, this commission to be given power to ascertain and fix standards of minimum wages for women in any occupation within the state. When this commission finds women working for less than a living wage, it will call a conference of three employers and three employees to determine what is an adequate living wage. The commission may then make an order, after hearing any protests. The whole plan is a means for fair play and mutual understanding between employer and employee. It makes no attack on capital nor does it unjustly espouse the cause of the laborer. It recognizes, however, the just demand of the worker for a living wage, a demand so much the more insistent because the worker is a woman.

Women do not have the direct influence of the vote. But they have an indirect vote that can be of untold service in behalf of this measure.

WHY NOT A CIVIC CENTER.

More than 6,000 young people live in Columbia. Many of them have little if any social life. Not that they do not desire it, but because they have no opportunity, no suitable place to enjoy life as young people long to do.

If Columbia had a social or civic center where young people of all ages could gather to play, entertain and be entertained many lives would be happier. If Columbia had a civic center the cost of production would be repaid a hundredfold in human happiness every year.

Why could not Columbia purchase a block of ground and develop a civic center plan? Columbia will some day build a city hall. Why could not this city hall be built on one end of this block and a library, which will

eventually come, on the other? A city gymnasium should be built on the other end of this ground.

Between these buildings build a play ground. Have this under the direction of some city official or the Columbia school board. Let the Columbia children come to this playground and under the direction of a playground instructor, romp, play and grow healthy.

Every mother would rather have her children playing under the direction of a good instructor than have them on the streets where they are in the path of automobiles, wagons and other dangers. The streets are now the children's playgrounds. The Hinkson Creek with its muddy rocky pools is the swimming center. Boys would rather go swimming in a large pool of clear water and mothers would feel at ease knowing that they were looked after by an instructor.

Girls need social recreation as well as boys. They could use the gymnasium and the library for social gatherings and entertainments. Sewing, reading and story clubs could easily be maintained. Girls like and require athletic exercise so the gymnasium and playground could also be used by them. In addition social evenings could be developed for the town's people.

A high standard of citizenship, contentment and happiness is a city's greatest asset, and incidentally the city's best advertisement.

Columbia could well afford to invest a few thousand dollars in the development of a civic center idea.

The Open Column

Small Appeal in Debating.

Editor The Missourian:—The writer of the plea for more support for debating should not forget the place debating holds in the modern university. It is good to seek more encouragement for it. But the average student and the average faculty member are not to be condemned for the attitude with which "F. K." has them regard debating.

He should note that the trend in modern universities is away from the importance formerly given debating or declaiming. The schools where this activity is looked upon with anything akin to the enthusiasm over athletics are small, and few in number, if indeed they exist at all.

We can not expect a debate to interest as many students as a football game. As far as the spirit of contest is concerned, there is a greater element in the game, and an element that is more fundamental in its appeal. Contest, physical contest especially, attracts.

Debating is special in its appeal. A university is a big place and there are many special interests. Even the interest in athletics is not universal by a long way. So, other activities are not being stressed at the expense of debating. If they attract more attention it is because they are more general in their appeal. But, you say, debating used to be a more important school activity? And so it did, but then, colleges were for the making of students only. Universities are now coming to be places for the making of men and women.—X.

The Literary Trawler

Turn O' The Tide.

The tide flows in to the harbour,—
The bold tide, the gold tide, the flood
O' the sunlit sea,—
And the little ships riding at anchor,
Are swinging and slanting their
prows to the ocean, panting
To lift their wings to the wide wild
air,

And venture a voyage they know not
where,—
To fly away and be free:

The tide runs out o' the harbour,—
The low tide, the slow tide, the ebb
O' the moonlit bay,—
And the little ships rocking at anchor,

Are rounding and turning their bows
to the landward, yearning
To breathe the breath of the sun-
warmed strand,
To rest in the lee of the high hill
land,—
To hold their haven and stay!

—Henry van Dyke.

Short Course Students Debate.

The special creamery and ice cream-making class met with the regular short course students at 7:30 o'clock last Friday evening in a debate, the subject of which was "Resolved that the time for rural cooperation has arrived." The creamery students held the affirmative and were represented by W. R. Brice and T. C. Dickman, while the short course students were represented by G. O. Pickett and M. E. Near. The affirmative won.

One Good Story

Democracy in France.

A charming story was told me at the Lycee Racine while I was there. In one of my classes there were two little girls of twelve years old—Jeanne and Louise—who had become very dear bosom friends. Walking home together with their respective escorts, they one day discovered that they both lived in the same building, which happened to be that part of the Palace of the Louvre occupied by the Ministry of Finance.

"Do you mean to say that you live here?" asked Jeanne of Louise.

"Yes, my papa is the usher to the Minister," said Louise in the most simple manner possible and without the slightest confusion.

"Oh!" exclaimed Jeanne, "how funny! My papa is the Minister!"

The next morning, as the Minister passed his usher in the ante-chamber, he stopped and said:

"I hear that your daughter and mine attend the same Lycee. It might save your wife two journeys a day, if the maid who accompanies my little girl brought yours back with mine. Mention it to your wife and let it be arranged in that way."

Such is the spirit that prevails in French Lycees.—From "France from Within," by Claire De Pratz.

Mrs. Ankeney Gives Valentine Party.

Mrs. J. S. Ankeney entertained at a Valentine party at her home at 906 Conley avenue, Saturday evening.

A Light Breakfast, 5c

A cup of coffee and two cinnamon rolls.

Lem's Place

Across from Star Theatre

Wilson May Speak to Legislators.

By Special Correspondence.
JEFFERSON CITY, Feb. 15.—Woodrow Wilson may address the forty-eighth General Assembly of Missouri on his way to the Panama-Pacific Exposition in March. A resolution of the legislature extended an invitation to the President to make a speech here as he passes through the state. A letter from him was read today to the House and Senate saying the itinerary of the western trip had not yet been decided on but that the President would be glad to address the Assembly if convenient arrangements can be made.

Gamma Sigma Delta Installs Officers.

Gamma Sigma Delta, an honorary fraternity in the College of Agriculture, met at the Y. M. C. A. Building last night and installed officers for the ensuing semester. Prof. P. F. Trowbridge of the agricultural chemistry department and C. E. Mangels, assistant instructor in agricultural chemistry, addressed the fraternity.

E. A. Trowbridge Has Appendicitis.

E. A. Trowbridge, professor of animal husbandry, was unable to meet his classes yesterday on account of an attack of appendicitis.

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Galveston, Tex., On sale daily until March 31st, good returning until May 2nd, 1915. \$35.80
Houston, Tex., On sale daily until March 31st, good returning until May 2nd, 1915. \$33.80
San Antonio, Tex., On sale daily until March 31st, good returning until May 2nd, 1915. \$35.25
Dallas, and Ft. Worth, Tex., On sale daily until March 31st, good returning until May 2nd, 1915. \$25.10

Round trip fares to points in California, going one way, returning via another, on sale daily, with a nine months' limit. One way via Portland at small additional cost.

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